Fee structure in Universities

1785. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RSOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Expenditure Reforms Committee of the Finance Ministry has recommended for raising the present fee structure of Universities and other educational institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of increase likely to be effected *viz-a-vizVne* present fee being charged in the Universities and other educational institutions thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBMAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) the Expenditure Reforms Commission in its 9th Report has recommended, *inter-alia,* that fees in Higher Educational Institutions needs to be revised to meaningful levels so as to have co-relation to the cost of education in such institutions. It however, has also recommended that a portion of the additional realization from such increase in fee be used for extending free-ships to students from poor families, besides granting scholarships to meritorious students. The Government has suitably advised the University Grants Commission in this regard who, however, has not so far issued any specific instruction.

Schooling in North Eastern Region

1786. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) details of Government of India's schemes for education to all by 2003 in the North Eastern Region with particular reference to Assam; and

(b) whether such schemes are Centrally financed by Government or will it be jointly financed by Government of India and the States; if so, the details thereof?